IN THE CLAIMS

1–13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) A method for reproducing data from a recording medium having recorded thereon ~~first data, second data, or both the~~ first data and ~~the~~ second data~~,~~ and having recorded thereon content data representing contents of the first data, the first data being recorded in a form of a track consisting of a plurality of pits, the second data being recorded by displacing the pits from the track ~~in~~ along a direction normal to the track, and the content data including identification data that indicates whether the second data is recorded on the recording medium~~,~~ ~~wherein the content data further~~ and including~~s~~ reproduction-mode identification data representing a reproduction mode ~~of~~ for reproducing the first data and the second data, ~~the~~ said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

reading the identification data and the reproduction-mode identification data from the recording medium;

determining a type of the recording medium from the read reproduction-mode identification data when the read identification data indicates that the second data is recorded on ~~from~~ the recording medium; ~~and~~

selecting, based on the determined type, reproduction~~ing~~ of the first data and the second data read from the recording medium as two independent audio information items, multi-channel audio information items, an audio information item with text data or an audio information item with image data; ~~in accordance with the reproduction mode identification data, when the second data is recorded on the recording medium~~and

reproducing the first data and the second data read from the recording medium based on said selecting step.

15. (currently amended) The method of reproducing

data from a recording medium~~,~~ according to claim 14, wherein the reproduction~~-~~mode identification data represents a first reproduction mode for reproducing a signal by performing an operation on the first data and on the second data, and a second reproduction mode for reproducing the first data, ~~or~~ the second data, or both the first data and the second data.

16. (currently amended) The method of reproducing data from a recording medium~~,~~ according to claim 15, wherein~~,~~ when the reproduction~~-~~mode identification data represents the first reproduction mode, an operation is performed on two data items obtained by reproducing the first data and the second data~~,~~ ~~both~~ read from the recording medium.

17. (currently amended) The method of reproducing data from a recording medium~~,~~ according to claim 16, wherein~~,~~ when the reproduction-mode identification data represents the second reproduction mode, either a first data item obtained by reproducing the first data or a second data item obtained by reproducing the second data is outputted.

18. (currently amended) The method of reproducing data from a recording medium~~,~~ according to claim 14, wherein the first data read from the recording medium is reproduced and outputted when the second data is not recorded on the recording medium.

19. (currently amended) An apparatus for reproducing data from a recording medium having recorded thereon ~~first data or second data, or both the~~ first data and ~~the~~ second data~~,~~ and having recorded thereon content data representing contents of the first data, the first data being recorded in a form of a track consisting of a plurality of pits, the second data being recorded by displacing the pits from the track ~~in~~ along a direction normal to the track, and the content data including identification data that indicates whether the second data is recorded on the recording medium~~,~~ and including reproduction-

mode identification data that represents a mode for reproducing the second data, said apparatus comprising:

a head section configured to apply a laser beam to scan the recording medium;

a reading section configured to read the identification data and the reproduction-mode identification data from the recording medium;

a selecting section;

a signal-reproducing section configured to reproduce a signal read from the recording medium by the head section; and

a control section configured to determine a type of ~~the~~ recording medium from the read reproduction-mode identification data when the read identification data indicates that the second data is recorded on ~~from~~ the recording medium, to cause said selecting section to select, based on the determined type, reproduction of the first data and the second data read from the recording medium as two independent audio information items, multi-channel audio information items, an audio information item with text data or an audio information item with image data, and to cause the signal-reproducing section to reproduce the first data and the second data~~,~~ based on the selection carried out by said selecting section~~both read from the recording medium, in accordance with the reproduction mode identification data selected when the identification data represents that the second data is recorded on the recording medium~~.

20. (currently amended) The apparatus for reproducing data~~,~~ according to claim 19, wherein the signal-reproducing section comprises:~~,~~

a first signal-processing section configured to perform at least demodulation ~~in~~ of a first component of a

signal outputted from the head section, and

a second signal-processing section configured to perform at least demodulation ~~on~~ of a second component of the signal outputted from the head section, ~~which~~ the second component correspondings to the displacement of pits from the track ~~in~~ along a direction normal to the track~~,~~ ~~anda mixing section configured to mix the data output from the first signal processing section and the data output from the second signal processing section~~.

21. (currently amended) The apparatus for reproducing data~~,~~ according to claim 20, ~~further comprising a switching circuit which~~ wherein said selecting section is controlled by ~~the~~ said control section ~~for~~ to select~~ing~~ at least the data output from ~~the~~ said first signal-processing section ~~or data output from the mixing section~~.

22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) The apparatus for reproducing data~~,~~ according to claim 21, wherein ~~the~~ said control section further controls said selecting section ~~the switching circuit~~ to select the data output from ~~the~~ said first signal-processing section when the reproduction-mode identification data read from the recording medium by ~~the~~ said head section represents a reproduction mode in which the first data, ~~or~~ the second data, or both the first data and the second data are reproduced.

24. (currently amended) The apparatus for reproducing data~~,~~ according to claim 20, further wherein said selecting section is ~~switching circuit~~ configured to supply the second signal-processing section with ~~a~~ the second component of ~~a~~ the signal in accordance with a control signal supplied from the control section, said component of the signal being one corresponding to the displacement of the pits from the track ~~in~~ along the direction normal to the track.

25. (currently amended) The apparatus for reproducing

data~~,~~ according to claim 19, wherein ~~the~~ said control section outputs data outputted from ~~the~~ said signal-reproducing section and corresponding to the first data read from the recording medium~~,~~ when the identification data read from the recording medium by ~~the~~ said head section indicates that the second data is found not to be recorded on the recording medium.